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THE OLD CROWD RETURNING.

Washington Claimants Flocking to the Capital to Prepare for the Coming Session.

One could tell that the meeting of congress was not far off from the way certain persons begin to make their appearance at the national capital. For ever so many years they have besieged congress with claims of nearly every description, and for amounts ranging from a thousand dollars to a million. Some of them have been at Washington for twenty years, if not longer. The ranks are kept good by new cases as one after another drops out. Favorable action by congress in one case will inspire all the rest with hope and determination to stick. Not one of them doubts but what his turn is bound to come yet.

Claims growing out of the war are the more numerous class. They grow with time. A war claim is equal in value to the average of mining plants. It depends quite as much on how such a claim is worked as on the character of the product supporting it. Some claims ripen with age; the older they are the better. A large claim stands a far better chance than a comparatively small one. A claim that is not large enough to divide up and create the promise of a good thing for several parties, has a poor show unless it has an independent money backing. A claim that is large enough to divide up has a self-propelling power. It will find friends. A claim is often farmed out to a ring of lobby brokers which includes one or more able lawyers familiar with all the intricacies of that sort of practice. They go at it systematically, and are content if the first time they can get the claim before a committee, even though no action is taken. That much is counted as progress, and so it is. The next time a report is made without recommendation, is obtained, and nothing more comes of it for that time. Next time it gets a set-back from an unfavorable report. But that does not discourage the syndicate, who are prepared for that. The next time the attempt is made to have the matter referred to a select committee. If it succeeds it is a piece of good fortune; it is a favorite method. By this time some new proof has probably been discovered. Papers heretofore missing have been found. After a while a bill is reported, which, however, is not expected to pass. It is then or through persistence of some objector at the only time when it could be got up. But no one is discouraged yet, except the poor claimant, who has spent his time and money hanging around Washington winter after winter, until he can do it no longer, and yet he comes and goes year after year, and so do the contracting syndicate, who with a number of jobs on their hands, manage to make a business of it and pay expenses. But the poor claimant, the victim of hope deferred, of a select committee, is getting poorer every year, though the syndicate assure him that the prospect is brightening. And so it is in one view; for now and then a claim of this description does go through, either by the direct and consecutive action of congress or by being referred to the Court of Claims. After that there is another and peculiar experience. Managers of claims consider the Court of Claims a good place to be. The reasons are various and familiar to those who have gone through the mill. How inadequately the government is represented in this court outsiders little understand.

Claims that have been pushed in the lobby by women have had exceptionally good luck. Women are believed to be more persistent than men. Cases are cited of claims abandoned by experienced lobbyists after a faithful trial, that have been put through by female influence. There is one such case before the Court of Claims at the present moment for a large amount, which owes its success, after repeated failures, to this character of effort and influence.

A Timely Announcement.

Prof. Proctor reasons that the moon has grown old six times as fast as the earth, a comparison of the masses and radiating surfaces of the two bodies making it evident that the earth's internal heat was originally sufficient to last six times as long as the moon's supply. Following up this reasoning he argues that 60,000,000 of years must elapse before we will have reached the stage of life through which the moon is now passing.

The above is important. While probably no one has noticed that the moon is growing bald or gray-haired, or seen it limping through space on a pair of crutches, there is no question but that the planet is growing old. It has every reason to grow old, and it is no wonder that it has grown old six times as fast as the earth. The moon's life is all night work and that is very straining on the nervous system. But the assurance of Prof. Proctor that sixty million years will have to elapse before the earth reaches that tottering age and "stage of life through which the moon is now passing," comes like a blessed boon to the interested people of the earth. Now people can go ahead and get their farms mortgaged, and lay in just enough flour and coal to last that long, as after the earth gets as old as the moon is now, no one will care to live upon it any longer, and they will let the old thing go to the dogs. Prof. Proctor's announcement comes just in the nick of time.—Pek's Sun.

"Oh, yes," said the eldest Mrs. Culture at Table d'Hotel the other evening. "I breakfasted the other evening with Mrs. Brainweight, and we enjoyed a delicious repast—excellent coffee, superior bread, and piscatorial globes done admirably." "What?" asked her friend, "Piscatorial globes?" repeated the Boston virgin. "And what under the sun are they?" "I believe," said Mrs. Culture, drawing herself up stiffly, "I believe uncultured people call them fish balls."—Hotel Mail.

NEWS OF THE NORTHWEST.

Gov. Newell has signed the bill for the formation of the new county of Asotin.

Custom Officer Blake has established his headquarters at Wadsworth, W. T., and will put a stop to the Chinese smuggling business as far as possible.

Capt. Jackson, of the steamer Washington, states that Chinamen, generally supposed to have come across the border line, can be seen going up the Sound on his boat almost every trip.

The La Cumbre Mail mentions that A. R. Williamson, the first settler on the Skagit river, above the jam, died at his residence near Lyman on Tuesday, the 6th inst. Mr. Williamson was also the pioneer hop grower on the Skagit, and was one of the first hop raisers in the Puget Sound valley.

Business is reported lively in Clatsop, with a steady increase of population. Immigrants are arriving daily and all available dwelling houses are crowded—some with two or three families. New buildings are going up on all sides, and the prospects are that carpenters will be kept busy all winter to provide the necessary shelter for the new arrivals. The immigration that is pouring in.

Commenting on the division of Yakima, the Ellensburg, W. T., Localizer says: "The people of Yakima City are indifferent as to division of the county. At the next election that end of the county can vote the upper country. There will be over 300 new settlers below Yakima before next spring. They rather court division for the reason that when the county debt is divided, they will have the twenty-five miles completed railroad to help to put their county out of debt; while the upper county will have to struggle for years to pay off the debt that it will have to assume."

The Rag Carpet.

With the threatened eruption of the rag carpet as a kind of venerable successor to the genuine Boston made Turkish rug, there comes a warning on the part of the made portion of humanity and a protest on the part of all health loving humanity.

I rise at this moment as the self-appointed representative of poor, down-trodden and long-suffering man, Alenady lady friends are looking with anxious and covetous eyes on my spring suit, and, in fancy, constructing a stripe of navy blue, while some other man's spring clothes are already spotted for the "hit or miss" stripe of the time honored humberg.

It does seem to me that there is enough surviving toil going on in the rag carpet, enough of backache and delirium, without tearing the shirt off a man's back to sew into a rag carpet made to breed death and disease, with its prehistoric perspiration and modern drug store eyes.

The rag now commonly known as the Turkish prayer rug has a sad, worn look, but it does not come up to the rag carpet of the dear old home. Around it there clusters, perhaps, a tradition of an Oriental falsehood, but the rag carpet of the dear old home, rich in association, is a heirloom that passes down from generation to generation, like the horse blanket of forgotten years, and the ragrug of the dead dead past. Here is found the stripes of all wool delaine that was worn by one who is now in the golden house, or stricken with Dakota fever, living in the square of his home, and there is the fragment of underclothes prematurely jerked from the back of the husband and father before the silver of a century had crept into his hair. There is no question but the dear old rag carpet, with its warm, cozy, and sturdy yellow and brindle browns and doubtful black is a big thing. It looks kind of modest and unpretending, and yet speaks of the dead past and smells of the antique and the garret.

It represents the long months when aching fingers first sewed the garments, then the first dash of gray on the front breadth, the maddening cry, the wild effort to efface it with benzine, the sorrowful defeat, the dusty grease spot standing like a pork plaque upon the face of the past, the glad relinquishment of the garment with a wailing cry of "worn out," and upon it, the hurried crash as it was torn into shreds and sewn together, the mad plunge of the dust powdered mass into the reeking bath of Paris green or copperas, then the weaver's gentle racket and at last the pale consumptive, freckled, sickly, broad shouldered, outrageous coloring, offending the eye, the nose, the throat and the larynx, to be trodden under foot of men and to yield up its precious dose of destroying poisons from generation even unto generation.

It is not a thing of beauty, for it looks like the colored engraving of a mortified lung. It is not economical, for the same time devoted to knocking out the brains of frogs and collecting their hams for the metropolitan market would yield infinitely more, and it is not worth much as an heirloom, for within the same time a mortgage may be placed upon the old homestead which will pass down from father to son, even to nations yet unborn, and attract more attention in the courts than all the rag carpets that it would require to span the broad spanned dome of heaven.

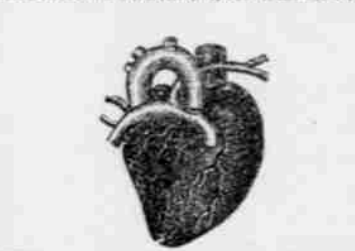
I often wonder that Oscar Wilde, the pale patron of the good, the true and the beautiful, did not rise up in his might and knock the essential warp and filling out of the rag carpet. Oscar did not do right or he would have stood up in his sunny clothes and fought for reform at no much per fight. While he made fun of the Chicago water works, a grateful public would have buried in cut flowers if instead he had warped it to the rag carpet and the approaching dade.—Bill Nye.

The last observations indicate that we are distant from the sun 92,700,000 miles. These are the figures obtained as near as may be from the observations of the last Venus transits.

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